

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTe-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-02 PA-02 PRS-01

USIA-15 /050 W

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R 261555Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4075

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY QUITO

UNCLAS LIMA 1603

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, PE

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - PRESS COVERAGE OF CAB ORDER

REF: STATE 040350

1. LIMA PRESS TREATMENT FEBRUARY 25 OF CAB SHOW CAUSE ORDER WAS SOMEWHAT LESS STRIDENT THAN MIGHT HVE BEEN EXPECTED. GOP-OWNED "LA CRONICA" CARRIED BANNER HEADLINE "THEY WANT TO CANCEL AEROPERU IN U.S.." MORE MODERATE "LA PRENSA" AND "COMERCIO" HEADLINED, RESPECTIVELY, "BOARD IN U.S. THREATENS TO CANCEL AEROPERU'S OPERATING PERMIT" AND "AEROPERU FLIGHTS TO U.S. WILL CONTINUE IN NORMAL MANNER." STORIES THEMSELVES WERE FAIRLY STRAIGHTFORWARD, ALL QUOTING PORTIONS OF CAB PRESS RELEASE.

2. STORIES ALSO QUOTED AEROPERU SPOKESMAN (IDENTIFIED CORRECTLY OR INCORRECTLY BY "COMERCIO" AS GENERAL SOTO) TO FOLLOWING EFFECTS: "AEROPERU FLIGHTS TO THE U.S. WILL CONTINUE NORMALLY", THE EXECUTIVE PRESIDENT OF AEROPERU, MAJOR GENERAL (R) CARLOS SOTO VERA, SAID YESTERDAY. HE MADE THIS STATEMENT ON THE BASIS OF WIRE SERVICE STORIES FROM WASHINGTON ACCORDING TO WHICH THE UNCLASSIFIED

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U.S. CAB HAS TENTATIVELY DECIDED THAT "IT IS IN THE

PUBLIC INTEREST" TO CANCEL AEROPERU'S PERMIT TO LAND AT AIRPORTS IN THAT COUNTRY. INTERNATIONAL NEWS AGENCIES REPORTED, NEVERTHELESS, THAT THE CAB HAS NOT CLOSED THE DOORS TO AN UNDERSTANDING, ANNOUNCING THAT THE INTERESTED PARTIES, INCLUDING THE PERUVIAN COMPANY, HAVE UNTIL NEXT MARCH 17 TO APPEAL THE DECISION. IN THIS RESPECT, GENERAL SOTO NOTED THAT AEROPERU'S CENTRAL OFFICE IN LIMA WAS INFORMED BY TELEPHONE BY AEROPERU'S LAWYERS IN WASHINGTON THAT THEY HAD BEEN NOTIFIED OF THE CANCELLATION ORDER AND THAT THIS WOULD BEGIN AN ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESS BEFORE THE CAB IN WHICH AEROPERU WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THE TENTATIVE DECISION ADOPTED BY THE BOARD IS NOT VALID. GENERAL SOTO POINTED OUT THAT THE FINAL DECISION OF THE CAB HAS TO BE RATIFIED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES IN ORDER TO BECOME EFFECTIVE. "LATER, THE PATH OF JUDICIAL APPEAL TO THIS ORDER REMAINS OPEN," HE ADDED. THE AEROPERU PRESIDENT COMMENTED THAT IT WOULD SEEM THAT THE CAB HAS ACTED IN THE LIGHT OF FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN OVERTAKEN AND HAS ACCEDED TO THE REQUEST OF MR. HARDING LAWRENCE, PRESIDENT OF BRANIFF, WHO IN FACT TERMINATED NEGOTIATIONS WITH AEROPERU WITH THE THREAT THAT HE WOULD ASK HIS GOVERNMENT TO CANCEL THE PERMIT OF THE PERUVIAN ENTERPRISE. "OUR LAWYERS IN WASHINGTON," CONCLUDED GENERAL SOTO, "CONSIDER THAT THEY ARE IN A POSITION SOLIDLY TO SUSTAIN THE PERUVIAN POSITION, AND THEY WILL DO EVERYTHING NECESSARY TO PREVENT AN ACT OF THIS NATURE--UNJUST IN EVERY LIGHT--FROM PROSPERING."

3. FAR LEFT "EXPRESO" RAN TO FORM, TERMING THE CAB ACTION A "TYPICAL IMPERIALIST REPRISAL AGAINST PERU" AND CONCLUDING "WITH RESPECT TO THE PERUVIAN POSITION, THE CHIEF OF THE REVOLUTION, PRESIDENT JUAN VELASCO, HAS ALREADY MADE IT ABUNDANTLY CLEAR. IF AEROPERU IS CANCELLED, NO U.S. PLANE WILL BE PERMITTED TO ENTER PERUVIAN SKIES."
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